GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:49
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2000
CELLULAR SERVICES
KANTI SINGH;MD ANWARUL HAQUE;RAM PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Koshika Telecom Company was entrusted to operate cellular services in Uttar Pradesh(East and West), Bihar and Orissa;

(b) if so, whether this Company is operating in Uttar Pradesh(East) only whereas the other Circles are without Cellular facility in these States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the other alternative measures the Government propose to take to provide cellular services in these Circles particularly in Bihar?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) to (d): Sir, M/s. Koshika Telecom Ltd. Were given four separate licenses for operation of Cellular mobile Telephone Service in Oriss, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh(East) and Uttar Pradesh (West) Telecom Circle Service areas. Three licenses of M/s. Koshika Telecom for Orissa, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh(West) Circles were terminated on 22.05.1999 due to default in payment of license fee dues. The Cellular Telephone Service is available from the other Service providers in these three circles; viz., M/s. Reliance in Bihar & Orissa Circles and M/s. Escotel in UP(West) Circle. The UP(East) Circle license of M/s. Koshika was not terminated because the othe licence in UP(East) Circle i.e. M/s. Aircell Digilink India Ltd. wereâlso a defaulter and in case of termination of both the licenses, the Cellular Subscribers of UP (East) Circle would have been deprived of the services.

In terms of Government decision, a package for restoration of the three terminated licenses and simultaneous migration to New Telecom Policy - 1999 (NTP-99) regime was offered to M/s. Koshika under letters dated 17.04.2000. M/s. Koshika wereâlso offered a package for Migration to NTP-99regime in respect of UP(East) Circle existing license under letter dated 17.04.2000. M/s. Koshika furnished unconditional acceptance of all the four packages vide letter dated 25.04.2000, however, they failed to fulfil the conditions of payment of outstanding due as laid down.

The other operator in UP(East) Circle i.e. M/s. Aircell Digilink India Ltd. was also offered the Package of Migration to NTP-99 regime and they are under the process of migration to NTP-99 regime. Therefore, the subscribers of Cellular Service have option to avail service from the other operators in all the above said four Circles.